

Claims

1. A method for providing speech navigation of a voice mail system, comprising the steps of:
  - establishing a communication link between a speech navigation system and a voice mail system;
  - providing a voice command to the speech navigation system, wherein the voice command has at least one associated keypad character; and
  - providing a telephone dialing tone from the speech navigation system to the voice mail system, wherein the telephone dialing tone corresponds to the at least one associated keypad character of the voice command.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone dialing tone is a dual tone multiple frequency (DTMF) tone.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the associated keypad character is one of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, \* and #.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the speech navigation system includes a wireless communication device.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is one of a mobile telephone and a cellular telephone.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the voice mail system performs a function associated with the telephone dialing tone.
7. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:
  - transitioning to a speech recognition mode while maintaining the communication link between the speech navigation system and the voice mail system.

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8. A speech navigation system for communicating with a voice mail system, the speech navigation system comprising:

a wireless communication device for establishing a communication link with the voice mail system;

a processor coupled to the wireless communication device;

a memory subsystem coupled to the processor, the memory subsystem storing a plurality of voice commands and a plurality of keypad characters, wherein at least one of the plurality of keypad characters are each associated with one of the plurality of voice commands; and

a voice input circuit coupled to the processor for receiving a voice command from a user, wherein the processor is configured to associate a received voice command with at least one of the plurality of keypad characters and cause the wireless communication device to provide a corresponding telephone dialing tone to the voice mail system via the communication link.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the telephone dialing tone is a dual tone multiple frequency (DTMF) tone.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the plurality of keypad characters include 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, \* and #.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the wireless communication device is one of a mobile telephone and a cellular telephone.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the voice mail system performs a function associated with the telephone dialing tone when received.

13. The system of claim 8, further including:

a switch coupled to the processor, wherein the speech navigation system transitions from a voice mode to a speech recognition mode while maintaining the communication link with the voice mail system upon activation of the switch and transitions back to the voice mode upon

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deactivation of the switch.

14. The system of claim 8, wherein the speech navigation system transitions from a voice mode to a speech recognition mode while maintaining the communication link with the voice mail system upon receiving a first predetermined voice command and transitions back to the voice mode upon receiving a second predetermined voice command.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the first predetermined voice command and the second predetermined voice command are the same.

16. An automotive speech navigation system for communicating with a voice mail system, the speech navigation system comprising:

a wireless communication device located within a motor vehicle for establishing a communication link with the voice mail system;

a processor coupled to the wireless communication device;

a memory subsystem coupled to the processor, the memory subsystem storing a plurality of voice commands and a plurality of keypad characters, wherein at least one of the plurality of keypad characters are each associated with one of the plurality of voice commands; and

a voice input circuit coupled to the processor for receiving a voice command from a user, wherein the processor is configured to associate a received voice command with at least one of the plurality of keypad characters and cause the wireless communication device to provide a corresponding dual tone multiple frequency (DTMF) tone to the voice mail system via the communication link, and wherein the voice mail system performs a function associated with the DTMF tone when received.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the plurality of keypad characters include 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, \* and #.

18. The system of claim 16, further including:

a switch coupled to the processor, wherein the speech navigation system transitions from a voice mode to a speech recognition mode while maintaining the communication link with the voice mail system upon activation of the switch and transitions back to the voice mode upon deactivation of the switch.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the speech navigation system transitions from a voice mode to a speech recognition mode while maintaining the communication link with the voice mail system upon receiving a first predetermined voice command and transitions back to the voice mode upon receiving a second predetermined voice command.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the first predetermined voice command and the second predetermined voice command are the same.

21. The system of claim 16, wherein the wireless communication device is one of a mobile telephone and a cellular telephone.

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